

JOURNAL OF
**Pharmaceutical
Sciences**

October 1963

volume 52 number 10

EDWARD G. FELDMANN,
editor

SAMUEL W. GOLDSTEIN,
associate editor

ROBERT F. STEEVES,
assistant editor

SANDRA SUE SMITH,
editorial assistant

Editorial Advisory Board

J. H. BURCKHALTER

TROY C. DANIELS

GEORGE P. HAGER

W. W. HILTY

THOMAS J. MACEK

VARRO E. TYLER, JR.

Committee on Publications

LINWOOD F. TICE, *chairman*

WILLIAM S. APPLE

GROVER C. BOWLES

HENRY M. BURLAGE

HUGO H. SCHAEFER

The *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences* is published monthly by the American Pharmaceutical Association, at 20th & Northampton Sts., Easton, Pa. Second-class postage paid at Easton, Pa., and at additional mailing office.

All expressions of opinion and statements of supposed fact appearing in articles or editorials carried in THIS JOURNAL are published on the authority of the writer over whose name they appear, and are not to be regarded as necessarily expressing the policies or views of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

Offices—Editorial, Advertising, and Subscription Offices: 2215 Constitution Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20037. Publication Offices: 20th & Northampton Streets, Easton, Pa.

Annual Subscription—United States and foreign, \$15.00; single copies, \$1.50; combined rate with the *Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association*, \$20.00. Subscription rates are subject to change without notice. Members of the American Pharmaceutical Association may elect to receive the *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences* as a part of their annual \$27.00 A.P.A. membership dues.

Claims—Missing numbers will not be supplied if claims are received more than 60 days after the date of the issue, or if loss was due to failure to give notice of change of address. The Association cannot accept responsibility for foreign delivery when its records indicate shipment has been made.

Change of Address—Members and subscribers should notify at once both the Post Office and the American Pharmaceutical Association, 2215 Constitution Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20037, of any change of address.

© Copyright 1963, American Pharmaceutical Association, 2215 Constitution Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20037.

— *The Editor comments* —

IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

This year marks the diamond anniversary of a program which has become one of the most significant contributions of organized professional pharmacy to the public health and welfare. Seventy-five years ago, in 1888, the first edition of the *National Formulary* was published as part of the American Pharmaceutical Association's effort to standardize the composition and purity of drug preparations then on the market. This project represented the major part of a broad effort by the Association to eliminate the adulteration of drugs, which was an extremely serious problem during the latter half of the 19th century. Indeed, the problem was of such great proportions, and of such serious concern to pharmacists of that era, that it was listed in the A.P.H.A. Constitution as the first reason for the Association's establishment about 30 years earlier.

However, the pharmaceutical and medical professions responded to this challenge so well that by 1906, when the first Federal Food and Drugs Act was passed, Congress took note of the vital importance of the *National Formulary* and designated it, along with the *U. S. Pharmacopeia*, as an "official compendium" under pertinent sections of the law.

The role played by the *National Formulary* today in combating drug adulteration is fully as important as at any time during its 75-year history. Furthermore, the N.F. has assumed an increasingly active role in the standardization of drug potency, and in elevating the overall quality and purity of drugs marketed in this country. Therefore, the contribution of the N.F. to the public health and well-being continues to be of great importance. This fact, coupled with the very unique position accorded to the compendium by our federal and state legislative bodies, serves to place an awesome responsibility of public service in the hands of the profession of pharmacy.

It is somewhat of an unfortunate anomaly, however, that many American pharmacists—including some of the profession's leaders and elected officials—seem to have less recognition of this sacred trust than many non-pharmacists in closely related fields of the health-sciences complex.

Edward G. Feldmann